



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Suicide is one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience, and is occurring at a national rate of over 30,000 suicides annually. Suicide is the 'fastest growing killer of youth today'; and

WHEREAS, Suicide kills youth three to six times more than homicide. Research shows that almost all of youth suicides are preventable; and

WHEREAS, The issue of suicide and its prevention is of extreme importance and in need of greater public awareness; and

WHEREAS, Heightened community awareness will encourage the development of strategies to address depression and mental illness and to prevent suicides; and

WHEREAS, The Yellow Ribbon is rapidly becoming recognized internationally as the symbol for the awareness and prevention of suicide. It is recognized and used by suicide prevention groups, crisis centers, schools, churches, youth centers/hospitals, counselors, teachers, parents and especially youth.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim September 18-24, 2005, as

**YELLOW RIBBON SUICIDE AWARENESS
AND PREVENTION WEEK**

and do urge all citizens to work to prevent suicide, wear a yellow ribbon and to raise awareness and tolerance around all people affected by this tragedy.



Attest By
The Governor

Joseph S. Keithen
Secretary of State

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this
the 29th day of July
A.D., 2005*

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor of Louisiana